

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /127 W

----- 072922

R 241138Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3920

INFO CJCS

SECDEF

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 12981

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, CB

SUBJ: STATUS OF CONSCRIPTION PROGRAM

1. SUMMARY. THE NUMBER OF NEW RECRUITS HAS CONTINUED TO DECLINE AND FELL BELOW 100 PER DAY FOR THE PAST TWO DAYS. KHAND OFFICIALS ATTRIBUTE THE DECREASED NUMBER LARGELY TO THE EXHAUSTION OF THEIR REGISTRATION LISTS, BUT ALSO POINT TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF DEFERRED CATEGORIES AND FAILURE OF ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES TO TAKE STRONG MEASURES AGAINST DRAFT EVADERS. DEFENSE MINISTER AND CONSCRIPTION COORDINATOR THAPPANA NGINN HAS CALLED A MEETING OF CONSCRIPTION OFFICIALS ON MONDAY TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM. END SUMMARY

2. AS OF CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON NOVEMBER 23 THE FANK RECEPTION CENTER HAD RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 9161 NEW RECRUITS (7898 VOLUNTEERS AND 1263 CONSCRIPTS). THE RESULTS FOR THE PAST TWO DAYS WERE: NOVEMBER 22, 58 AND NOVEMBER 23, 47.

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3. AN EMBASSY OFFICER SPOKE WITH A NUMBER OF KHAND OFFICIALS ON NOVEMBER 23 IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE REASONS FOR THE DECREASED NUMBER OF RECRUITS IN RECENT DAYS. THERE IS NO CONSENSUS AMONG THESE OFFICIALS, BUT THE PRINCIPAL EXPLANATIONS OFFERED WERE THAT THE REGISTRATION LISTS (FOR PERSONS BETWEEN 18 AND 25) HAVE BEEN NEARLY EXHAUSTED (THIS IS CONFIRMED BY THE VERY LOW NUMBER OF CONVOCACTIONS CURRENTLY BEING ISSUED); A LARGE NUMBER OF THOSE CALLED ARE ELIGIBLE FOR OCCUPATIONAL, STUDENT, OR OTHER DEFERMENTS; AND NO SERIOUS EFFORT HAS YET BEEN MADE TO APPREHEND PERSONS WHO FAIL TO RESPOND TO CONVOCACTION ORDERS. BECAUSE OF THE EXTREME DIFFICULTY IN LOCATING THESE DRAFT EVADERS, MANY OF WHOM CHANGE THEIR PLACE OF RESIDENCE IN ORDER TO CONFUSE THE AUTHORITIES, ONE OFFICIAL RECOMMENDED THAT BLOCK-WIDE CORDON AND SEARCH OPERATIONS BE EMPLOYED IN ORDER TO FLUSH THEM OUT.

3. CHMEDTC AND POLMIL COUNSELOR DISCUSSED THESE PROBLEMS ON OCTOBER 23 WITH THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER THAPPANA NGINN, WHO ADMITTED THAT OTHER PRESSING DUTIES HAD TEMPORARILY DISTRACTED HIM FROM HIS CONSCRIPTION RESPONSIBILITIES BUT EXPRESSED DETERMINATION TO TAKE EARLY STEPS TO MOVE THE AVERAGE DAILY ACCESSIONS AGAIN ABOVE THE 200 MARK. THAPPANA NGINN HAS CALLED A MEETING OF PHNOM PENH CITY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FOR NOVEMBER 26 TO ASSESS THE SITUATION AND DECIDE UPON REMEDIAL MEASURES. THAPPANA NGINN ALSO STATED THAT A RENEWED CONSCRIPTION/RECRUITMENT

EFFORT IS NOW BEING LAUNCHED IN KANDAL PROVINCE BY THE NEWLY APPOINTED MSD COMMANDER THERE AND THAT CONSCRIPTION PROGRAMS WOULD SHORTLY BE INITIATED IN OTHER PROVINCES.
ENDERS

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NNN

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